

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,174,696 to Bogner ("Bogner").

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,382,202 to Chau-Ngoc et al. ("Chau-Ngoc").

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,253,961 to Geissler ("Geissler").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1 and 4 are pending for consideration. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. New claim 4 has been added.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Bogner. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1. The rejection of claims 2 and 3 is moot because of the cancellation of those claims.

The Office Action asserts that the holding member 2 of Bogner corresponds to the flange recited in claim 1. However, the holding member 2 of Bogner corresponds to a chuck rather than being a part of the drill bit itself recited in claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the engaging member is for engaging with a chuck. As shown in Fig. 1 and explained at col. 3, lines 37-39 of Bogner, the hollow cylinder 14 (which the Office Action alleges corresponds to the drill

portion recited in claim 1) is secured to the holding member 2 by a thread 10. Thread 10, being considered for the sake of argument the engaging member for the alleged drill portion of Bogner, is not formed at an outer peripheral face of the mounting portion (not identified in the Office Action) of the drill bit of Bogner. In fact, there is nothing located on the outer peripheral face of the hollow cylinder 14 of Bogner other than the core drill bit 15 (which the Office Action alleges corresponds to the boring blade recited in claim 1).

Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that “the engaging member comprises a locking piece formed to project from the outer peripheral face of the mounting portion in an outward radial direction, the locking piece configured to prevent movement of the core bit in an axial direction within a chuck.” Even if the holding member 2 of Bogner were, for the sake of argument, considered to be part of the core bit recited in claim 1, there is nothing projecting from the outer peripheral face of the holding member 2 in an outward radial direction that is disclosed to prevent movement of the core bit in an axial direction as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Bogner be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Chau-Ngoc. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1. The rejection of claims 2 and 3 is moot because of the cancellation of those claims.

Chau-Ngoc does not disclose a locking piece projecting from the outer peripheral face of the mounting portion in an outward radial direction, configured to prevent movement of the core bit in an axial direction within a chuck as recited in claim 1 as amended. For at least this reason,

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Chau-Ngoc be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Geissler. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1. The rejection of claims 2 and 3 is moot because of the cancellation of those claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the outer diameter of the flange is larger than the outer diameter of the drill portion. Thus, end face 9 of Geissler cannot be the flange recited in claim 1 as alleged in the Office Action.

Further, contrary to the assertions of the Office Action, there is nothing disclosed in Geissler to be projecting radially from the exterior wall 8 (which the Office Action alleges corresponds to the cylindrical mounting portion recited in claim 1), although there are projections 11, which are merely portions of the exterior wall 8.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Geissler be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claim 4 are in condition for allowance. Early allowance of claims 1 and 4 is earnestly solicited.

New Claims 5 and 6

New claims 5 and 6 have been added, including the feature “wherein the flange portion is configured to prevent movement of the core bit in an axial direction within the drill chuck.”

Applicants respectfully assert that this feature is not found in the cited references. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

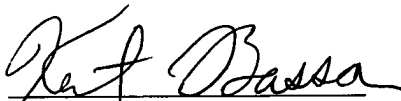
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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